

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members 2017 WINTER....ISSUE #1/4

*Discovering our history,
Preserving our past,
Sharing our stories.*



During WWII, a blue star flag was hung in home windows to show how many in that household were in service.

Ames Historical Society Board:

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The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 7pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

Staff:

Executive Director Casie Vance
Projects Coordinator Alex Feifar
Collections Mgr./Volunteer Coord. Hannah Frederick

Emeritus Staff:

Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Headquarters: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Hours Tue. – Sat. 10am-4pm
Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-232-2148
E-mail: info@ameshistory.org
Website: www.AmesHistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. It will be open Sundays, June 4 to August 13, 2-4 pm and by appointment. April to October. Closed November to March.

WORLD WAR II: AMES DOING ITS PART



To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the start of the U.S.' involvement in World War II, the Society unveiled its newest exhibit, *WW II: Ames Doing Its Part*.

The exhibit features stories about day-to-day life in Ames from 1941-45 for those who stayed at home and supported the war effort in countless ways.

The exhibit will be on view through September 30, Tue. - Sat., 10 am – 4 pm.

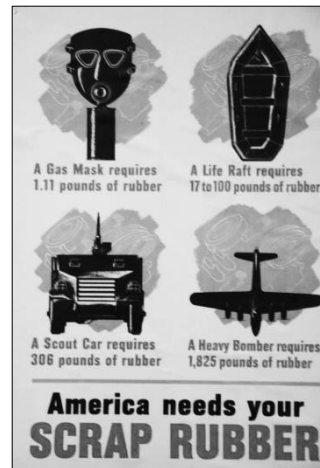
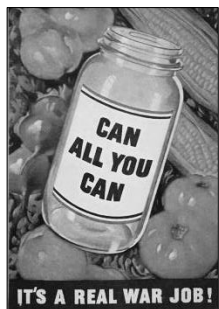
Local men and women enlisted in the armed services (*top, left*). Civilians practiced emergency procedures and took Red Cross classes. Iowa State was involved in military training programs and top-secret research. Kids pitched in, homemakers collected scrap metal, juggled family food needs with rationing, canned home grown produce and planted victory gardens.

The Ames Canning Company provided vegetables for military use. Collegiate Manufacturing Company expanded its production from college-related goods to war work, making rain coats and ponchos for the troops.

The exhibit includes a 1940s kitchen (*left*) and victory garden, a diary from a U.S. POW, a Collegiate Manufacturing raincoat, war-era artifacts, large photos and engaging information.



See page 2 for a listing of the special History Talks that will be offered in conjunction with the exhibit.



History Talks Accompany WWII Exhibit

Exhibit History Talks

A series of three history talks will enrich information about the WWII home front in central Iowa. All will take place at the Ames Public Library auditorium and are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, July 25, 7 pm

B17 Bomber Crash in Story County in 1944

Matt Donovan, Iowa D.O.T. Archeologist and Historian

In March 1944, a B17 bomber based in Kearney, NE crashed near Maxwell, IA, lost while flying in a snow and wind storm and taking the lives of seven crew members. A mail carrier was the first to reach the scene on the Cleat Donahoo farm 40 miles from Des Moines. The Donahoos witnessed the crash from their bedroom, seeing an explosion before the ship fell. The speaker has researched aviation archaeology in Iowa and will provide interesting details about this WWII-era tragedy.

Tuesday, August 29, 7 pm

The Home Fronts of Iowa, 1940-45

By Lisa Ossian, Des Moines Area Community College

Lisa Ossian divides home front contributions of Iowans into four fronts: farm, production, community and kitchen. Learn about Food for Freedom, directing farmers in all-out production. The "Arsenal of Democracy" stimulated small businesses and industries to fill military contracts while the two new ordnance plants produced bombs and ammunition. Towns and cities exceeded records in eight war bond drives as well as scrap drives for metal, paper and rubber and Iowa's women met rationing and production requirements in home kitchens.

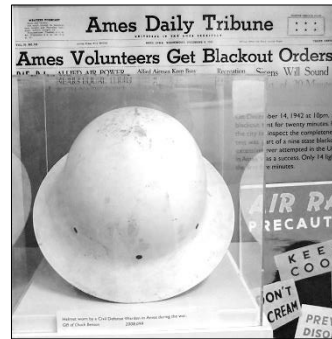
Tuesday, September 26, 7 pm

Working with the Enemy: German, Italian and Japanese Prisoners of War in Iowa WWII

By Chad Timm, Assoc. Prof. Education, Simpson College

With the successful 1942 Allied campaign against Adolf Hitler's Afrika Corps, the number of enemy prisoners of war that needed internment grew dramatically. Great Britain looked to the U.S. for help. Eventually there were more than 500 camps including two in the state of Iowa starting in 1943. Timm will focus on the camps in Algona and Clarinda, discussing camp life, community relations, the POW labor program, branch camps in more than 30 Iowa communities and the arrival of Japanese prisoners at Camp Clarinda in early 1945.

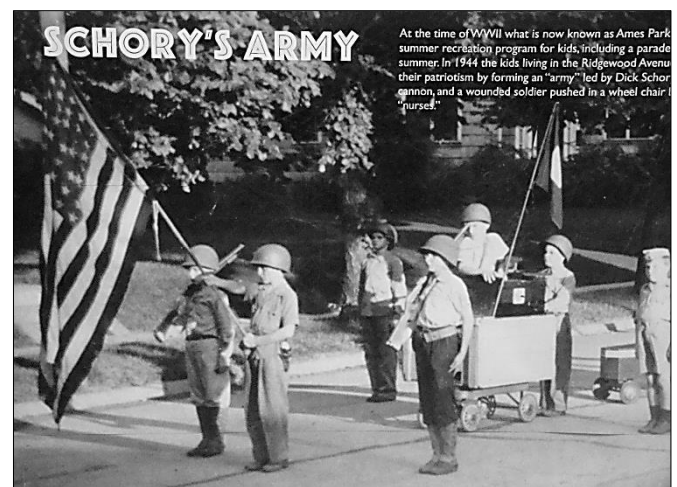
Supported by the Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau Community Grant Program. August and September programs made possible by Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities



The exhibit, *WW II: Ames Doing Its Part*, features a local air-raid warden's helmet (above, left) and an original military raincoat produced by Collegiate Manufacturing (above, right), then located at 5th & Douglas.



One corner of the exhibit features scrap items that were collected for the war effort - paper, metal and rubber; these items are backed by a large-scale photograph of an area near 5th and Grand.



This 1944 children's patriotic parade in Ames was led by Dick Schory, who later became a well-known musician and composer.

Announcing the 2017 Lecture Series

Presented in partnership with Ames Public Library. All lectures at Ames Public Library's Farwell Brown Auditorium, 515 Douglas. Free & open to the public

Tuesday, March 28, 7pm

The Football Controversy at Iowa State College, 1894-1897

By Douglas Biggs, *Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Kearney*



In the 1890s, ISC was one of the strongest football teams in the west, running up huge scores on big university and small college teams alike. Success bred jealousy and ISC was accused of fielding a team of hired semi-professionals instead of student athletes. Douglas Biggs explores the origins of Iowa State football and how President William Beardshear and legendary coach "Pop" Warner influenced the foundational years of ISC football.

Note: this talk was originally scheduled for 2016, but was postponed to this year.

Wednesday, April 19, 7pm

The Roosevelt: From Classrooms to Condos

By Teresa Larson, *documentary producer, with assistance from Alex Fejfar, videographer*



What happens when a school district "shutters" a school? In most cases, the building is abandoned and sometimes becomes a neighborhood blight. In Ames, there was a school building that "defied the odds." A group of passionate citizens and a willing developer rescued Roosevelt School from the wrecking ball and gave the structure new life. The program will include the Society's 34-minute film produced by Larson, *"The Roosevelt : From Classrooms to Condos,"* that chronicles the struggle and illustrates the new way the building is used. A brief panel discussion will be held afterwards. Former Roosevelt students, faculty and administrators are especially invited to attend and a "class picture" of will be taken.

Tuesday, May 23, 7pm

Main Street Building "Secrets"

By Sharon Wirth and Judy Gilger, *Historical Plaque Project researchers*



While researching buildings for the recent downtown historical plaque project and walking tour, Sharon Wirth and Judy Gilger uncovered many intriguing facts about downtown structures, the businesses that occupied them and the people who built them. You will hear many interesting tidbits that were discovered but could not be used on the small surface of the plaques. *Note: The plaque tour brochure that Sharon and Judy put together is available at the History Center.*

Wednesday, June 28, 7pm

Prehistoric Story County

By Matt Donovan, *Iowa D.O.T. Archeologist and Historian*



Matt will present the pre-history of Story County and Ames, starting with the ice age and continuing through time to native cultures and early historic settlements. He'll mix together topics on Iowa archaeology in general and the specific archaeology and history of Story County with maps, pictures and artifacts. This will be a fascinating look at what existed in central Iowa long before European settlement.

Local Stories – the WWII Years in Ames

For the 1964 Ames Centennial, an industrious committee wrote a 100-year history of our town. Each decade was undertaken by different sub-committees with researchers scrolling through newspaper microfilm to get an idea of the developments and pressing topics of their assigned years.

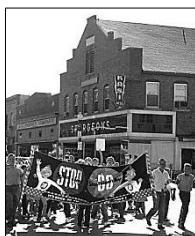
Here are highlights they gleaned from the WWII years, in conjunction with the current exhibit at the History Center.

1941

- The college doubles the number of flyers in training.
- City Manager **John Ames** is "loaned" to the federal government for 30 days to advise on defense installations.
- The O'Neil property south of the Highway Commission is rezoned to permit the building of a dairy plant. The balance of the tract is given to the city **for a park**.
- Ames is designated a defense area. Building material and financing will be more readily available now.

1942

- The nation entered 1942 on a dual keynote of "happy new year" and "beat the Japs" - America's first **wartime** New Year's Day in 24 years.
- Ames has a snow of **blizzard** proportions - 20 inches fell in Des Moines with temperatures of ten below zero. Trains ran two hours behind schedule (right).
- The fall of Manila is imminent. Washington is awaiting official word from the Philippine capitol. Secretary of War Stinson told reporters that **severe fighting** is in progress after the American and Filipino forces consolidated their positions.
- **Tire ration** plan set up ... Iowa quota at 7,304.
- Boiler explosion in the old high school fieldhouse, hurled an entrance door more than 50 feet.
- President Roosevelt calls for the military **registration** of eligible men between the ages of 20 and 44.
- Iowa State registers 5,150 for winter quarter.
- H. W. Stafford, 26-year president of Ames Trust and City Treasurer since 1915, dies following a heart attack.
- Plans for the opening of a **Spurgeon** Mercantile store were revealed at 328 Main (right).
- Red Cross drive goes "**over top**" with its War Relief fund drive at



- Ames Daily Tribune carriers sold a total of 56,656 ten cent **Defense Stamps** and received awards from the U.S. Treasury Department.
- Chief of Police W. J. Cure (right) ordered a tightening of restrictions on "bums" and "floaters" after Roosevelt School had been ransacked by a man believed to have been a "voluntary guest" of the city for a meal earlier the same day.



- Iowa Highway Patrol Chief Knee ordered patrolmen to take steps to enforce a **40 mph speed** limit on highways.
- "Corregidor Falls" is the headline May 6. American defenders of Corregidor fortress went down under a battering attack by Japanese big guns and assault troops. The exhausted and hungry men, 7,000 in all, surrendered after 27 days of **heroic** resistance.
- Rushing's new super-market, east of Kellogg, south of the C & NW tracks, held its formal opening.
- 800 sailors arrived on the Iowa State College campus for the **naval training** school for electricians and aircraft machinists (right).
- First Lieut. **Clate W.**



- Chennette** is at the air force's officer's training school at Miami Beach. He was director of the Ames Municipal Band for several years prior to enlisting in the service.
- Second Lieut. James H. Buck was a graduate of the officer candidate department of the eastern signal corps school, at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Buck.
- City officials searched for the criminals who smashed a padlock on the [zoo's] bear cages at Brookside Park and **liberated** two adult black bears. Both bears apparently spent the night in or near the park and when the park caretaker reported for work, they greeted him on the bridge. City employees spent more than an hour capturing the bears.
- Two Ames boys, James R. Paley and James J. O'Neil, who have been **buddies** through their junior high, high school and college days, are now buddies on the field. They are attending pre-flight school at Kelley Field, Texas.



- City Manager John Ames received appointment as **special consultant** to the bureau of governmental research, a department of the War Production Board in Washington, D.C.
- Uncle Sam was **158,493 pounds** richer in scrap metal as the result of the effort of 52 men as they canvassed every block in Ames for raw material with which to forge the weapons of war.
- The new \$89,000 municipal airport pushed one step nearer realization as the city began to obtain a site for the **new base**.
- Several hundred Ames civilians had a look at Navy life as it is lived far from sea at an open house and "Happy Hour" program held during "Navy Day" on the ISC campus. They were served regular Navy "grub" after answering 6:30 am mess call in the Memorial Union and went on an inspection tour of the Navy dormitory. A **Navy Day** parade attracted a large audience to downtown streets.
- Dr. G. E. McFarland Jr., was **commissioned** a medical corps lieutenant in the U. S. Naval Reserve at Des Moines and was ordered to report for active duty at the U. S. Naval Hospital in San Diego (right).
- The American invasion of North Africa is gaining force at all points.
- Ray Smalling, former assistant coach, was appointed **head coach** and director of athletics and physical education of Ames High School to succeed Kenneth Wells, who was granted a leave of absence to serve in the Navy for the duration of the war.
- Mrs. Mary C. Carr, 84, a resident of Ames intermittently, died at the home of her daughter in Soldier, Iowa. She was the **mother** of R. E. "Dad" Carr, operator of a local skating rink and swimming pool.
- Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Kintzley, 3621 Woodland, observed their 60th wedding anniversary on Christmas day 1942. The Kintzleys are long-time residents of Story County. Mr. Kintzley was born here in **1859** before Ames was established and Mrs. Kintzley came to Iowa from Illinois in a covered wagon.



government. Sales must be curtailed to 60% of the same months a year ago. Butterfats must be conserved; this is the way the ice cream industry will do its part (right).



- Harold Olsan is with the Coast Guard and stationed at St. Paul.
- Capt. Joe Fellows and Lieut. Lee Rosebrook (right) were home for short visits in April. Capt. Fellows is stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood.
- The Montgomery Ward store is **branching** out to the west, going into the room formerly occupied by the Mathison Motor Co. That firm has moved to the old Dutch garage location at 5th & Kellogg.
- The Ames goal in the bond drive of the Third War Loan is **nearing** the \$200,000 mark and workers are actively canvassing to complete the total of \$314,000. Chairman Earl Holtz is asking for a supreme effort to buy an extra bond.
- Some 14,410 persons got their **ration books**, reported eight schools, but persons who did not get their No. 4 book, will wish they had when No. 3 expires in November.
- The committee in charge of arranging a Christmas invitation for the sailors and servicemen at ISC finds that a few are still without invitations.
- Word is received that Lieut. Zac Dunlap is still in Italy, but **is well**; the mail service is quite rapid now (right).
- Joining in a 9-state **blackout test**, Ames was almost completely dark only seconds after the warning whistles sounded. The blackout was almost 100% - except for a few who didn't remember. The underpass lights glowed and so did the Brookside Park lights. Lighted cigarettes and matches were noticeable, so were flashlights and car lights. It must be remembered that the blackout was a complete surprise.
- Some **prices** from this period: electric iron, \$4.44; razor blades, 1¢ each; one pound butter, 39¢; 10 pounds sugar, 65¢; two pounds coffee, 59¢; corn flakes, 2 for 19¢; women's shoes, \$2.49; movie 20¢; men's straw hat, \$1.98; and bread was 9¢ a loaf.



Lt. Dunlap Wounded In Italian Campaign
 Mrs. Zac Dunlap, the former Mary Janet MacDonald, has been informed by her husband Lieut. Zac Dunlap that he was injured on February third, somewhere in Italy, by German shrapnel. One leg was broken and he received flesh wounds in both legs. They were removing the cast the day he wrote, preparatory to other treatment. It is believed he will be hospitalized for at least two months more.
 Lieutenant Dunlap left the United States about two years ago for England and since that time has been in Africa, Tunisia and Salerno. He is now somewhere in Italy, with General Clark's 5th Army.
 Mrs. Dunlap and daughter make their home in Ames with her parents, Prof. and Mrs. G. B. MacDonald, 517 Ash.

1943

- A hangar/repair shop were destroyed by fire at the Howard Airport on East 13th.
- Thomas S. Trow received his silver wings and a 2nd lieutenant's commission in the air force reserve.
- Moore Brothers and O'Neil Dairy **will not sell** any ice cream on Wednesdays, through an order of the

Watch for a continuation of this story in the next newsletter, a compilation of events 1944 to 1946.

Upcoming Events and Society News

Please Join Us!

2017 Annual Meeting: March 4

The Society's annual meeting of the membership will take place Saturday, March 4, 10:00 am at Ames Public Library's auditorium. Members are cordially invited and encouraged to attend!

In addition to member approval of the slate of new Board members, an overview of 2016 activities and the "State of the Society" will be presented.

Q & A

Afterwards, with the aid of willing audience "plants," an interactive program of Questions & Answers will showcase the Society's new website. The staff will demonstrate how the website is used to answer inquiries that come in to the History Center and in the process, will acquaint members with the surprising amount of rich historic material that is provided and demonstrate tips and tricks that maximize site usefulness. In tracking website users, we see that they stop at our site from all over the world!

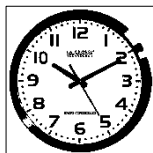


More Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for these Society events:

- **May 19-20** - Annual Book Sale (book donations welcome in May!)
- **June 2** - ArtWalk Open House
- **June 17** - Community Ice Cream Social, 12 - 3 pm
- **August 26** - Annual Benefit Dinner, Oakwood Road Church
- **September 24** - Annual Octagon Art Festival Open House
- **October 27** - Main Street Cultural District Trick-or-Treating Open House
- **December 2** - Old-Fashioned Christmas at the History Center, 11 am - 2 pm

New Open Hours Reminder



New open hours at the Ames History Center are Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm. This increases open hours from 26 to 30 hours per week and aligns with standard open days in many museums.

Outdoor Alliance Speaker Series

Provided in partnership with the Outdoor Alliance of Story County and Ames Public Library.

All presentations will be at the Ames Public Library Auditorium, 515 Douglas Ave., 7pm

Tuesday, February 21

Skunk River Navy

Did you know that Iowa State University has its own navy? Well, it does - sort of. Come hear the story of the development and river clean-up accomplishments of the Skunk River Navy from the "commanding admiral" himself, Dr. Jim Colbert of the ISU Biology Program.



Wednesday, March 15

Birds of Ada Hayden Heritage Park

Wolfgang Oesterreich is an avid birder, cyclist, and photographer. He commonly combines these interests in his daily visits to Ada Hayden Heritage Park. There, Wolf keeps a record of the birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and dragonflies-damselflies that he observes. He will highlight some of his findings in his presentation.



News briefs

- **Hallway exhibits** at the History Center are:
 - Julia Laughlin: Ames' Woman Stationmaster
 - Early Autos in Ames
 - History of CyRide
 - History of ACTORS
- **Hoggatt School** will be open on Sunday from June 4 to August 13, 2 to 4 pm. Watch for the complete listing of special events and programs in the next newsletter.
- Join the 1,662 people who **"like"** us on Facebook. The historical photos that appear weekly in the Ames Tribune are also posted on our Facebook page. We enjoy the reactions and comments from our many followers!

German Iowa: March 15 – April 3

Make plans to see the traveling exhibit, **German Iowa and the Global Midwest** that will be on display at the Ames Public Library, March 15 through April 3, 2017. The exhibit will explore Iowa's multi-cultural history by focusing on the largest group of European origin to settle in the state. There will be corresponding events on March 29 and April 18. Check the Library's website for details. The Society is partnering with Ames Public Library and the ISU History Department.

Benefit Auction Items Redeemed

Several of the successful bidders on the auction items offered at our 2016 benefit dinner have enjoyed their

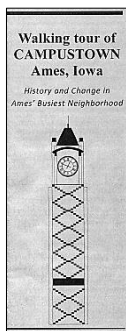


winnings. A "delightful" dinner for eight was offered by Sharon Wirth and two of her neighbors at The Roosevelt, Patrick

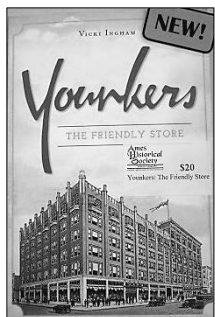
and Jane Hansen and N J Poklitter. After the event, Sharon noticed this message on her chalkboard! Soap and broom making offered by Shannon Bardole and garden advice from Nick Howell have also been redeemed. The 2017 Benefit will again feature unique auction items.

New Walking Tour Guide

John Perry has put together a new walking guide to Campustown that he titles, "History and Change in Ames' Busiest Neighborhood." It is different from other guides in talking about the major streets, College Creek and significant structures as well as whole blocks of buildings. This is another great resource for anyone wishing to know more about the built landscape of Ames. Pick one up at the History Center.



Three New Books in the Shop



Three new book titles are being offered in the Museum Shop:

- A Culinary History of Iowa
- Younkers, the Friendly Store
- Campustown, a Brief History of the First West Ames.

They are \$20 each and are also available in our online shop at www.ameshistory.org. They add wonderful new material to our

outstanding selection of local history resources.

Enchanting Endowment

A gift to the Society's endowment supports our mission, forever!

The Society has created a permanently endowed fund with the Story County Community Foundation to provide stable, ongoing support for our activities. The Endowment disperses 5% of the fund balance each year to support day-to-day activities – in 2016 that was approximately \$6,000. This number will increase as the Endowment grows. It is currently at \$134,000.

We invite you to make a "forever" gift in addition to your normal annual support. Your gift will qualify for Endow Iowa tax credits that are a 25% state tax credit in addition to the normal federal charitable income tax deductions. The Iowa legislature has authorized a total of \$6 million per year in Endow Iowa tax credits available on a first come, first served basis.

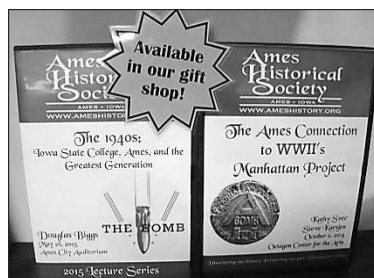
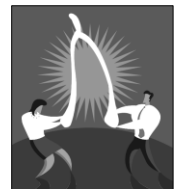
Please contact the Story County Community Foundation at 515-232-9200 for more information about the Society's permanent endowment and the Endow Iowa tax credit program.

Society Wish List

Very grateful thanks go to Don Zytowski for the donation of sawhorses. Other wishes:

- Funds for archival boxes for the collection (approximately \$13 each)
- Ames photos from 1960s (largely missing from Ames Tribune archive)
- Ongoing subscription to newspaperarchive.com (6 months - \$99.95)
- Office and building supplies: computer paper, sticky notes, pens, tall kitchen trash bags, glass cleaner, tissues, etc.
- Donations toward a new copy machine (\$500)
- Donations toward printing the new Campustown walking tour brochure in color

Let us know if you can help by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing info@ameshistory.org.



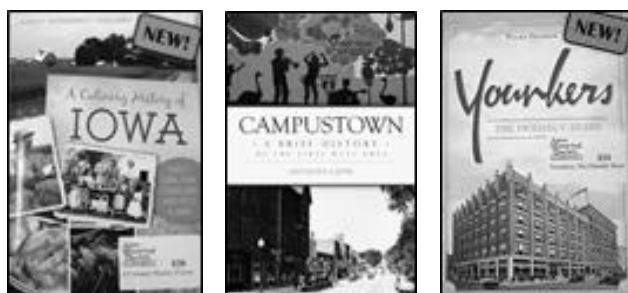
Two DVDs focusing on the WWII-era are available in the Museum Shop: *The 1940s: Iowa State College, Ames & the Greatest Generation* and *The Ames Connection to WWII's Manhattan Project*.

Ames Historical Society
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Ames, Iowa 50010

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Museum Shop



THE ENTIRE SHOP may be viewed on our new website – browse and order online!
www.ameshistory.org

THREE NEW BOOK TITLES:

A Culinary History of Iowa; Younkers, the Friendly Store;
Campustown: a Brief History of the First West Ames.

OTHER SELECTIONS: sturdy canvas tote, children's books and games, large selection of local stories on DVD, postcards with vintage Ames images, magnets, mugs, specialty coffee and more!

Open Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm



Our city founder, John Blair, seemingly joined the holiday picture of the Chamber of Commerce staff! The portrait is on display at the Chamber's offices for two more years.

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online at our updated website!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name _____

Address _____

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010